

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00047 061935Z
ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0047

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, GV
SUBJECT: RED CROSS MISSION TO GUINEA

REF: 77 CONAKRY 2419

1. GOG INFORMED SWISS CHARGE ON JANUARY 4 VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE THAT GUINEA INVITES ICRC TO SEND ITS DELEGATION TO GUINEA AT ANY DATE OF ITS CHOOSING, AS PROPOSED IN ICRC'S PREVIOUS LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI.
2. SWISS CHARGE WILL TRANSMIT GOG NOTE TO BERN IN POUCH LEAVING CONAKRY JANUARY 10. HE PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT ICRC IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO GOG, PRESENTING ICRA-PROPOSED DATES OF VISIT (WITH SEVERAL SETS OF ALTERNATE DATES) IN NEAREST FUTURE, AS WELL AS LIST OF MEMBERS OF PROPOSED DELEGATION. EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS SUGGESTION.
3. COMMENT: GOG'S ASSENT TO ICRC MISSION IS NOW OFFICIAL. THIS IS ANOTHER KEY STEP FORWARD ON HUMAN-RIGHTS FRONT IN GUINEA, AS WERE 1977 AMNESTIES. ALTHOUGH INITIATIVE NOW LIES WITH ICRC AND GOG--U.S. BEING MERELY INTENSELY INTERESTED GODFATHER--IT NEVERTHELESS WOULD APPEAR PRUDENT FOR US TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ICRC AT SOME POINT

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SOON AS TO BEST TACTICS ICRC MIGHT LOGICALLY CHOOSE. FOR EXAMPLE U.S. MIGHT OFFER TO SHARE WITH ICRC OUR ASSESSMENT OF RECENT ENCOURAGING TRENDS IN GUINEA, SIZEABLE RECENT AMNESTIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND TOURE'S CURRENTLY OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARD BETTER RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL, IVORY COAST AND WEST. POINT COULD BE MADE THAT ICRC'S APPROACH MIGHT USEFULLY BE TAILORED TO

"COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE", RENEWAL OF USEFULLY MUTUAL
TIES WITH ICRC, AND DISCREET HANDLING OF VISIT WITHOUT
PRESS INVOLVEMENT UNLESS OF COURSE GOG DESIRES IT. GOG
NOW MAY FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT HOSTING RED CROSS
HAVING EMBARKED--GOG SOURCES CLAIM--ON AN AMNESTY PROGRAM
THAT OUGHT TO BRING EVEN MORE RESULTS IN 1978, ASSUMING
SEKOU TOURE STAYS ON RECONCILIATORY INTERNAL TRACK OF
RECENT WEEKS. WE BELIEVE THE TONE OF THE APPROACH
ICRC TAKES IN DEALINGS WITH TOURE AND OTHER GUINEANS WILL
HAVE DIRECT AND IMPORTANT BEARING ON THIS, AS ATMOSPHERICS
ARE CRUCIAL. FOR BEST RESULTS RECOMMEND ICRC TREAD FAIRLY
CAREFULLY AT FIRST IN ORDER BETTER TO FEEL OUT HOW FAR
GOG CAN USEFULLY BE PUSHED IN INITIAL ENCOUNTER.
CROSBY

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